

By: Stuart Beaumont – Head of Emergency Planning and Community Safety - KCC

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 1st November 2012

Classification: For Decision

Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement 2011-14 – Action Plan Partnership Anti Social Behaviour Strategy

Summary This report provides details of the progress being made regarding the development of a partnership ASB Strategy for Kent and Medway which was a key action contained within the Kent Community Safety Agreement 2011-14. This report outlines the consultation process and seeks approval of a County Partnership ASB Strategy.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 It was acknowledged in a report to the Kent Community Safety Partnership in September 2011 that community safety does not respect district/borough council boundaries and that the coordination of effort across county wide partners can lead to economies of scale, joined up working and more effective solutions.
- 1.2 The Kent Community Safety Agreement recognises where “added value” can be achieved in terms of delivering successful outcomes and each of the actions contained within the agreement are activities that would benefit from a wider partnership focus. In all areas that have been identified the outcomes will be significantly improved through joint working.
- 1.3 This report focuses on the delivery of actions associated with ASB, with particular reference to ASB Case Management and the development and approval of a Partnership ASB Strategy and associated minimum standards.
- 1.4 There is little doubt that the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner will have ASB as a high priority and will want to focus on this area in their business plan. In addition the HMIC have made reference in their Kent inspection reports to the need for a coordinated partnership approach to ASB.

2.0 Kent Community Safety Agreement

- 2.1 The Kent Community Safety Agreement is the product of the amalgamation of the strategic assessments for each of the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) in the county. Using a scoring mechanism each strategic assessment was analysed to identify the common priorities across the county.
- 2.2 ASB was one of the identified county wide priorities that form the basis of the County Community Safety Agreement for 2011 – 2014.

3.0 ASB Background

- 3.1 Reducing anti-social behaviour is a government priority and is also a concern for community safety partners across Kent. Nationally, high profile cases have highlighted the need for local public services to work more closely together to better understand the needs of vulnerable persons subjected to on-going ASB. Sharing information and insight is vital to ensure that individual's needs are met whilst resolutions are sought.
- 3.2 The coalition government have released the White Paper, Putting Victims First – More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour, which details the intent to overhaul the current ASB toolkit of powers. The victims of ASB will be at the forefront of any response. Public bodies and their partners are now being encouraged to draw upon the lessons learnt following the call handling and case management trials. The trials with eight policing areas worked towards ensuring the police and their partners get it right the moment a call comes in and that they identify and manage high-risk victims effectively and take their problems seriously.
- 3.3 The 11 community safety partnerships in Kent have all identified ASB as a priority for their districts. The Kent Community Safety Agreement action plan highlighted two main areas of activity in relation to anti-social behaviour:
 - 3.3.1 A Countywide Partnership ASB Strategy that will provide the guiding principles that all agencies follow when seeking to tackle anti-social behaviour.
 - 3.3.2 The implementation of an ASB (IT based) case management system.
- 3.4 Kent Chiefs requested KCC and Kent Police to lead on the delivery of the ASB work-stream key outcomes that were included within the Community Safety agreement delivery plan. A project team has been established utilising KCC Community Safety and Kent Police staff resources. The project plan had two key themes the delivery of ASB Case Management and the development of an ASB Partnership Strategy and updates are provided below.

- ASB Case Management

In terms of Case Management good progress is being made and currently there are two Kent Police software developers working on the technical design and content of the database. As part of this the architecture for sharing the data between Partners and Kent Police has been the first phase of work, thereby ensuring there is an easy process of accessing the database from different locations. The technical testing of this aspect is aimed to occur in late October or early November and then authentication and encryption tests can also be explored to ensure the integrity of the data.

To ensure the case management tools are fit for purpose and able to deal with potential changes in the future, many aspects of forthcoming legislation or proposals are being included into the system specification, in particular troubled

families, the community trigger and future changes to Kent Police IT systems, to name a few.

The current timeline for delivery is currently network testing in November, database development into the new calendar year with a prototype for testing and demonstration. A full system should be available for implementation at the beginning of the new financial year. This will provide Partners with an integrated system to manage and monitor ASB.

- ASB Partnership Strategy

Considerable progress has also been made with the development of a Partnership ASB Strategy for the County of the last few months. The proposed Partnership ASB Strategy is built upon the foundations of good practice that has been identified in Kent, across other Counties and also taking into account advice/reports from the Home Office and the HMIC.

A broad consultation exercise has been completed across partners working within community safety in Kent with largely very positive feedback and much of this feedback has been incorporated within the draft strategy that is attached to this report. In summary feedback has been received from ASB Practitioners, Primary Care Trust, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Kent Probation, Medway Unitary, Community Safety Partnerships, Kent Police, Kent Police Authority and Joint Kent Chiefs.

This strategy recognises the excellent work delivered by partners at a local CSU level and the adoption of this overarching partnership strategy encourages joined up working, the promotion of best practice, and most importantly the adoption of consistent service standard for victims of ASB across Kent & Medway.

It is proposed that once the draft Partnership ASB Strategy is approved further work will be completed with partners both at a local and county level using available information to suitably reflect the minimum standards at a local level, determine risks, highlight requirements for service improvements and resource shortfalls in priority areas. In conjunction with this the Case Management product will be rolled out across partnerships to support service delivery. To achieve these outcomes will require the engagement of front line professionals across partnerships and it is proposed to establish a task and finish group to deliver these outcomes across the county.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 That the draft Partnership ASB Strategy is approved for adoption by the Kent CSP.
- 4.2 That KCC Community Safety and Kent Police continue their work in this area and establish a "Task and Finish" Group to engage local partners in the adoption of the strategy at a local level.
- 4.3 That formal support and adoption of the ASB Partnership Strategy is sought from the Medway Community safety Partnership.

Attachments:

Kent & Medway Partnerships ASB Strategy

For Further Information:

Stuart Beaumont
Head of Emergency Planning and
Community Safety, KCC
Stuart.beaumont@kent.gov.uk

Jim Parris
Community Safety Manager, KCC
James.parris@kent.gov.uk